



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

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**A LENGTHY PRISON TERM AND DEPORTATION PENDING FOR RESIDENT
ALIEN FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING CONVICTION**

(LAREDO, TX) A long time resident alien from Mexico, will be serving more than eleven (11) years in federal prison for drug trafficking and then is likely to be deported, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

Raymundo Andrade Velez, 43, convicted in November 2005 of possession with intent to distribute more than eight pounds of heroin, was sentenced by United States District Judge George P. Kazen on Thursday, June 22, 2006, to 135 months in federal prison, without parole. Additionally, this drug trafficking conviction can serve as a basis for revocation of resident alien status and deportation upon release from prison.

Andrade Velez was arrested on September 6, 2005, while at the United States Border Patrol checkpoint on Highway 35 north of Laredo, after agents found about eight pounds of heroin and eighteen pounds of cocaine in a cleverly designed hidden compartment in the rear cargo area of his Chevrolet Trailblazer. During his interview with Border Patrol Agents, Andrade Velez represented himself as a legal resident alien, who had resided in the U. S. for several years.

Andrade Velez plead guilty to the federal drug felony offense in November 2005 and has been in federal custody since his arrest.

The investigation leading to the federal charges was conducted by special agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant United States Attorney Graciela Rodriguez Lindberg prosecuted the case.

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